

ARMS STRIKE HEADS TURN ON GOMPERS

Say His Visit to Bridgeport
Has Set Situation There
Back 24 Hours.

GERMAN STORY REPEATED

Bridgeport, Conn., July 23.—Shortly after Samuel Gompers, president of the American Federation of Labor, left this city on his way to New York after an all-day conference with labor heads, John A. Johnston, international vice-president of the Structural Iron Workers' Union, announced that the local situation had been set back twenty-four hours by the coming here of Gompers. Johnston's statement was made by Johnston at the presence of John J. Keppeler, another of the international labor heads, Gompers had previously issued a statement following the close of the afternoon conference, in which he stated that the American Federation of Labor would stand back of the union of Bridgeport for an eight-hour day.

Gompers when pressed for a statement as to his judgment concerning the situation of the present strike significantly remarked: "If I were a newspaper man I would stick around, because if you should leave now you might miss the best story of all."

Johnston further stated that Gompers came here not to advise in the local difficulty but because he was summoned by the various international union heads now here to explain what he meant by the statements attributed to him in the press that foreign money was being used to bring about trouble among the workers in American munition plants.

"Keppeler and I are in charge of the Bridgeport strike situation and you can see that we have the matter well in hand. There is only one question upon which there is any difference between the men and the employers at the arms plant, and that is a technical one which will be settled in a day or two. The strike here is virtually over and the men now out on strike most likely return to work by Monday."

8 Hour Day Decided Weeks Ago.

One of the leading local manufacturers said to-night that the situation here was being deflected by the coming of Johnston. None of the local manufacturers, he said, had any demands made upon them by Gompers, and that the fact that the employees at the Remington Arms and United Metallic Cartridge Company had been assured of an eight-hour day several weeks before the labor agitators reached Bridgeport. "The arms plants," he continued, "decided that in order to turn out their war contracts on time it was necessary to keep going day and night and they set to work having three shifts of eight hours each. The international chiefs probably heard of this and decided to go to the aid of the strikers, but by inducing a comparatively few machinists to quit took the credit for the eight-hour day without reduction in wages which had already been agreed upon."

During the morning conference John J. Keppeler, former vice-president of the American Federation of Labor, made a spirited address in which he declared that the local and State union leaders were well able to handle the situation here and that there was no need of outside interference.

Mr. Gompers was asked this afternoon to explain his charge that German gold had influenced the present strike difficulties here. "The newspapers have exaggerated my remarks somewhat," he said, "but I did say that the presence of a foreign nation were at work to corrupt men and longshoremen to quit their work in order to handle the products going to the Allies. I made no reference to Bridgeport. I stated that I didn't have any hesitancy in believing that the same influences are at work elsewhere and for the same purposes. That statement was made by me before the Bridgeport trouble occurred. When the time shall come for me to speak more definitely I shall do so. I shall abide my own time."

Gompers May Return.

"It has been stated, Mr. Gompers, that an effort will be made to force all the factories in this country now making munitions of war to go upon an eight-hour basis. Is the federation back of that?"

"If the workmen of this city can get the eight-hour day, it is up to them to demand it elsewhere. The American Federation of Labor has always tried to get the eight-hour day."

"Is your work completed here?"

"I am going home to-night. I may come back. I do not know about that."

Will Mr. Morrison or any other official of the federation take charge of the strike?"

"No. It will be left in the hands of the international labor leaders now on the scene."

"Will you care to say anything of the report that a woman offered you \$1,000 in gold to go to the munition factories of the United States?"

"That is not a matter for discussion now. In due time that may be taken up. You must remember that the American Federation of Labor and its officers are constantly under fire from the national association of manufacturers, and I am determined to destroy the federation and myself. In that campaign every effort will be made to get the best of them. I have in writing. Such stories and charges mean nothing."

TWO HURT IN DUCK FIGHT.

Austrians Worried in Clash With Italians at Weehawken.

In a clash between Austrian and Italian dock workers employed on the West Shore Railroad piers at Weehawken, leading floor for the Allies, two Austrians were injured to-night.

The men are Michael Slad, 22 years old, of 527 West Fourth street, Manhattan, and Joseph Buring, 30 years, of 534 West Fourth street, Manhattan.

The former has two stab wounds in the back and the other a pistol shot wound in the leg. Both were carried to the Hudson Hospital, where they received of others received slight injuries. The Weehawken police were not called into the affair, which was handled by the Central Railroad's police.

AGITATORS ON LONG ISLAND.

Manufacturers Take Precautions to Guard Against Surprises.

Information that strike agitators have been paying secret visits to the manufacturing plants in the Long Island City, where hundreds of thousands of dollars worth of war munitions are being manufactured, has led many of the manufacturers to take precautions to guard their plants against surprises of strikers.

A New York Police Capt. Edward F. McNally, who takes in a majority of the manufacturing plants, has received information that the agitators are planning to strike the plants, but it is understood that up to the present time they have been unable to make inroads upon the plants.

It is also understood that an effort was made in the last twenty-four hours to enter the Standard Oil plant in Long Island City. More than 1,000 men are employed at this plant.

TROOPS ASKED AGAIN AS SHOTS FLY AT SHERIFF

Machinists, Not Satisfied With
Shorter Hours, Again
Threaten Strike.

LABOR LEADERS ELATED



Copyright by Underwood & Underwood
John H. Moffit (on left) and James A. Smyth, the mediators sent to Bayonne by Secretary Wilson.

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young striker who was killed Wednesday.

Although the strikers remained quiet for about a week before the attack on the Sheriff and his special aids, it was clear that their spirit was bitter and that they were ready at any possible opportunity to commit violence. In the morning and in the afternoon they sauntered along the streets in the Standard Oil section, with their hands in their pockets, and their eyes fixed on the headquarters of the strikers.

Meantime Sheriff Kincaid, who had made his headquarters for two days in the fire house near the Tide Water plant, was getting complaints from the strikers and the approach of the day and had assigned to all night duty at the two oil plants. The men wanted an opportunity to get some sleep. Sheriff Kincaid, however, more deputies were sent from Jersey City.

About fifty of these men arrived at police headquarters in Bayonne at 2 o'clock. The Sheriff, in an automobile with Under Sheriff Clarke and four of his regular deputies, led the men down the street, with their hands in their pockets, and their eyes fixed on the headquarters of the strikers.

Then the strikers gathered from all directions, armed with revolvers and stones. They opened the attack with a hail of stones and bricks. The Sheriff and his deputies tried to maintain their nerve and their file, but they quickly became disordered. The strikers were charging close to the deputies, swinging their clubs. Then one of the aids who had an automatic revolver pulled out and blazed away. He hit nobody.

The strikers' missiles hit three of the guards. One aid suffered a stone on the nose and a third was hit on the arm. Finally the aids broke ranks and ran pell-mell down the street. The Sheriff and his deputies were scattered. The strikers were shouting and cheering. The Sheriff and his deputies were scattered. The strikers were shouting and cheering.

The police succeeded in driving the excited strikers back a little. The latter then turned and ran toward the Jersey City docks, where the Sheriff and a few of his deputies were gathered. A boy hurled a stone at the Sheriff's men and another threw a brick. The Sheriff sent a call to police headquarters for the reserves. The boulevard policemen and the five uniformed men from Union Hill responded.

With the hurling of the first stone one of the policemen near by raised his revolver in the air and fired several shots. The strikers were shouting and cheering. The Sheriff and his deputies were scattered. The strikers were shouting and cheering.

The young fellow then ran away. The Sheriff and his deputies were scattered. The strikers were shouting and cheering.

Meantime the Sheriff's men were shouting and cheering. The Sheriff and his deputies were scattered. The strikers were shouting and cheering.

"Get back," shouted the Sheriff. "These guns away," yelled back a striker.

"For God's sake put up your revolvers," ordered the Sheriff. The police and his deputies were shouting and cheering. The Sheriff and his deputies were scattered. The strikers were shouting and cheering.

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